This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

F
73
.25
.S8

University of Virginia Library
F;73.25;.S8
ALD Mayors of Boston; an illustrat
DX 000 196 279

Digitized by Google

UNIVERSITY
OF VIRGINIA
LIBRARIES

Digitized by Google

MAYORS *of* BOSTON

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

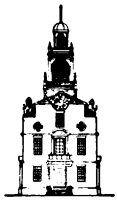
Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

MAYORS OF BOSTON

AN

ILLUSTRATED EPITOME
OF WHO THE MAYORS HAVE BEEN
AND WHAT THEY HAVE DONE



PRINTED FOR THE
STATE STREET TRUST COMPANY
BOSTON, MASS.

Digitized by Google

Copyrighted 1914
by the
State Street Trust Company

F
73
.R5
.S8

Compiled, Arranged and Printed
under the direction of the
Walton Advertising and Printing Company
Boston, Mass.

Digitized by Google

INTRODUCTION

THE State Street Trust Company takes pleasure in presenting to you the eighth of the historic brochures that it issues annually. The Company has chosen as its subject this year "The Mayors of Boston." And the purport of this pamphlet has been to present, in a brief but interesting manner, sketches and portraits of those who have been at the helm of Boston's affairs since the beginning of the city. It has not been possible to give equal space to all of the mayors, because of lack of space and because some of them have been so much more active in public affairs than others. The aim, however, has been to give each mayor the perspective that he deserves, so that those who have been most potent in the direction of city affairs naturally receive fuller treatment than those who have been less potent as mayors. Every effort has been made to make this brochure accurate, and, wherever it has been possible, the compiler has gone to the original source of information.

The compiler desires to acknowledge here the courtesy of ex-Mayors Samuel A. Green of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Nathan Matthews, Esq., Edwin Upton Curtis, Esq., Thomas Norton Hart, Esq., Mayor John Francis Fitzgerald, Colonel William A. Gaston of the National Shawmut Bank, Professor Theodore Lyman, and others who have kindly aided in the preparation of the work.

It is hoped that this book will be found a fitting companion to the historic brochures already issued by this company.

Digitized by Google

Josiah Quincy

Digitized by Google

MAYORS OF BOSTON

THE handful of men that came over from Charlestown in 1630, to avail themselves of the spring which William Blackstone had found so copious on Shawmut peninsula, probably had no idea that the little settlement which they then and there began would ever reach the size and dignity of the Metropolis of New England.

In fact, for many years after the beginning of the settlement and even after it had grown to the size of a large town, the realization that it would ever become a city had dawned upon few, if any, of the town's inhabitants. The form of government from the beginning was that of the old-fashioned town meeting, in which each freeman had a voice and in which the town affairs were regulated by the whole body of freemen. And this continued to be the form of administration until the town affairs became so unwieldy that certain persons were delegated to order them. At first these were chosen for six months, and then for a year, and finally they came to be called the Board of Selectmen.

A later step was the selection of town officials to look after special departments of public service, such as constables, surveyors of highway, clerks of market, sealers of leather, packers of fish and meat, and hog reeves. By 1708 the town-meeting form of government had become so inefficient that attempts were made to pass a draft of incorporation for the better government of the town; but it came to naught. And again in 1784 a petition of influential citizens secured the appointment of a committee which reported two plans for the better government of Boston: one making the body politic a mayor, aldermen, and common council of the city of Boston, and the other making the town a body politic, the president and selectmen of the city of Boston. But, when this plan was put up to the town voters, it was decided inexpedient to make the alteration suggested. Ineffectual efforts were made in 1791 and 1804 to convert the town into a full-fledged city. Then it was discovered that there was no provision in the State Constitution giving authority to the General Court to erect a city government, and a movement was speedily begun which resulted in the passage April 29, 1821, of such an amendment to the Constitution.

Although the population of the town in the previous year was 43,298, and the town meeting had become a farce, as it was frequented largely by public officials and less than fifty disinterested voters, save when questions of great interest came up, still the conservative element, desiring no change, opposed every step in the direction of a city. So influential a man as Josiah Quincy, who later became the second mayor of the city, was one of the most strenuous opponents of the movement to make Boston a city.

In January, 1822, the question was again brought before the inhabitants at a special meeting in Faneuil Hall, and there a committee reported in favor of a chief executive to be called the Intendant, who should be

Digitized by Google

elected by the selectmen; an executive board of seven persons called Selectmen, to be elected by the inhabitants on a general ticket; and a body with mixed legislative and executive powers, called the Board of Assistants, to be composed of four persons chosen from each of the twelve wards. This report was amended by changing the name of the Intendant, taken from the French, to the name mayor, selectmen to aldermen, and Board of Assistants to Common Council.

This form of government was submitted to the people of Boston, together with a query as to whether the name "the Town of Boston" should be changed to "the City of Boston." The vote on the changing of the name to the City of Boston was carried by 2,727 affirmative votes and 2,087 nays. The governor approved the act establishing the city of Boston, February 23, 1822. The new charter was drafted by Mr. Lemuel Shaw, later justice of the Supreme Court, the principal head was named "Mayor," the "Board of Aldermen" was fixed at eight members, and a "Common Council" of forty-eight persons created, four from each of the twelve wards into which the city was divided. The charter incorporating the city was accepted by the town March 4, 1822, by a vote of 2,797 to 1,881. The city government was thereupon organized, and on May 1, 1822, John Phillips was chosen mayor.

The mayors were elected annually until the Statute of 1895 made the term two years, which began with the election of Josiah Quincy in 1896. The four-year term began with the election of John F. Fitzgerald in 1910, the statute changing the term from two to four years having been passed in 1909.

JOHN PHILLIPS

First Mayor, 1822

John Phillips was one of the committee of twelve which reported favorably upon a charter to make the town of Boston a city. After its adoption, January 1, 1822, an attempt was unsuccessfully made to elect a mayor; but the factions could not choose between Josiah Quincy and Harrison Gray Otis. As it was felt that Phillips could unite the factions, he was asked to run, and his almost unanimous election showed the wisdom of the nomination. He was inaugurated May 1, 1822, running the government along the lines of the new charter. Mr. Phillips was conservative, kind, and conciliatory, and his administration, which was marked by republican simplicity, enjoyed the confidence of all parties.

He was the son of William and Margaret Phillips, and was born November 26, 1770, on the family estate about where 39 Washington Street was in 1852. For many years his widowed mother kept at the place of his birth a dry-goods store.

At the age of seven he entered Phillips Academy, Andover, founded by a relative, and went to Harvard in 1784, graduating as salutatory orator. After reading law with Judge Thomas Dawes, he was admitted to the bar. Upon the establishment of the Municipal Court, John Phillips was made prosecutor, and in 1809 he became judge of the Court of Common Pleas.

Digitized by Google

As one of the delegates in 1820 to revise the Constitution of the state, he exhibited much wisdom and rare humor. He became in 1812 a member of the corporation of Harvard College, and as such served until his death, May 29, 1823.

"His administration laid the foundation of the prosperity of our city deep and on right principles," his successor, Mayor Quincy, said; while Mayor Otis could say of him, "His aim was to allure, not to repel, to reconcile by gentle reforms, not to revolt by startling innovations." As a speaker, he was clear, forcible, conciliatory, and convincing.

He left at his death eight children, one of whom was Wendell Phillips, the great abolitionist orator.

JOSIAH QUINCY

Second Mayor, 1823–24–25–26–27–28

Josiah Quincy has been called the "Great Mayor." To him the city is indebted for Quincy Market and many of the early improvements. He was the son of Josiah Quincy, Jr., and Abigail Phillips, and was born February 4, 1772, in a house on Washington Street—then called Marlborough—not far from Milk Street.

It is said that his mother, a woman of great strength of character and original hygienic and social ideas, was wont to have her son, when he was but three years old, taken from bed every morning, winter and summer, into a cellar kitchen, where he was dipped three times in a tub of water as cold as it came from the pump.

He entered Phillips Academy at Andover when he was six, and went to Harvard when he was but fifteen. Upon graduating, the English oration, the highest honor, was given to him. He was admitted to the bar in 1793, and early became interested in public affairs, joining the Federalist party, to which he clung as long as it existed.

So brilliantly did Quincy deliver a Fourth of July oration in 1798 that he attracted much favorable attention, and, though he was but twenty-eight, he was selected in 1800 by the Federalists as their candidate for Congress. Although defeated, he was in the spring of 1804 elected to the State Senate and to Congress in the following November, serving three terms before he voluntarily retired.

While in Congress there was scarcely a question upon which he did not speak brilliantly and exhaustively. His attacks upon Jefferson and his administration were most bitter and sarcastic. After his withdrawal from Congress in 1813, he was elected to the Massachusetts Senate, and served there until 1820, when he was elected to the House and became its speaker.

He was made in 1822 a judge of the Municipal Court, and in the same year when the city government was formed he was asked to become a candidate for mayor, running against Harrison Gray Otis. The first ballot resulted in no choice, and the two candidates withdrew and John Phillips was elected mayor. The next year Mr. Quincy was chosen mayor, and he at once laid a masterful hand on the tiller of affairs. He made himself chairman of all committees, improved the sanitary conditions of

Digitized by Google

John Phillips

Harrison Gray Otis

Digitized by Google

the city, and organized a system of street cleaning and collection of garbage.

In spite of determined opposition he personally secured the options, bought the lands, and built Quincy Market. The corner-stone was laid by him, April 22, 1825, and he opened the market in 1827. The site was made by the filling in of the land about the town dock in the neighborhood of Faneuil Hall and the reclamation of about 125,000 square feet of land and flats. On the made land was erected the granite market house now known as Quincy Market. The total cost of the land and the market house was $1,100,000. The increased real estate values, as well as the additional property secured by the city, more than paid for the whole improvement. The Fire Department was reorganized by him, and he caused the erection in South Boston of the House of Industry and the House of Correction. During his second administration Mayor Quincy had the honor of entertaining General Lafayette, who was then a guest of the city.

After being five times re-elected, he was finally defeated, and retired from local politics. In 1829 he became president of Harvard, and resigned in 1845, at the age of seventy-three. He was a prolific writer upon historical subjects. Among his works are "History of Harvard University," "A History of the Boston Athenæum," a "Municipal History of the Town and City of Boston," and numerous historical monographs and biographies. Despite his great age he threw himself ardently into the anti-slavery controversy and the campaign to elect Lincoln. He died July 1, 1864, at the age of ninety-two.

HARRISON GRAY OTIS

Third Mayor, 1829–30–31

The father of Harrison Gray Otis was Samuel Allyne Otis, and his mother was Elizabeth Gray, daughter of Harrison Gray, a Loyalist. Otis, who was born October 8, 1765, could remember standing at the window of his birthplace, which stood on the estate that adjoined the Revere House, and watching the British regulars march to Lexington.

In 1783, when but eighteen, he was a first-honor man at Harvard, and had already given evidence of brilliant oratory that was to give him such a prominent place in New England. He studied law with Judge Lowell, and was admitted to the bar. Each morning at a very early hour Benjamin Bussy, a merchant, on his way to open his store, noticed a pair of shoes posted at the window of Judge Lowell's office, and, led by his curiosity to learn who could be there, discovered young Otis at study. More curious to know if young Otis studied all night, Bussy went by one morning before daylight, and there were the shoes. He went in, and again found young Otis with his feet on the sill, who told him that the early morning was his favorite time for study. So impressed was the merchant that he straightway made young Otis his attorney.

In 1796 Otis succeeded Fisher Ames as Congressional representative from Suffolk County. He became one of the leaders of the Federalist party, and upon his retirement from Congress was active in local political affairs, serving as speaker of the Massachusetts House and also as pres-

Digitized by Google

Charles Wells

Theodore Lyman

Digitized by Google

ident of the Senate. In December, 1814, he was one of the delegates to the much-maligned "Hartford Convention," which met for the purpose of asking the Federal Government to allow Massachusetts and the neighboring states to assume their own defence and raise taxes for this purpose. He was appointed in 1814 judge of the newly established Boston Court of Common Pleas, and served until he resigned in 1818, having been elected in 1817 to the United States Senate. He was one of the great orators of his state. His wife, Sarah, was the daughter of William Foster.

His speech in reply to Pinckney on the Missouri Compromise was one of the great speeches of the debate. Upon his retirement from the Senate in 1823 he ran for the governorship, for which he had in 1816 declined a nomination, but was defeated. In 1829 he was elected mayor, and held office until 1831. He died October 28, 1848.

CHARLES WELLS

Fourth Mayor, 1832–33

Charles Wells, the fourth mayor, who was born December 30, 1786, was elected as a protest of the middle classes against what they thought was the high-handed and extravagant way in which Quincy and Otis had managed the city's affairs. He was a master builder, and was by training little fitted for public office. In the election held December 12, 1831, the three candidates, Charles Wells, Theodore Lyman, and William Sullivan, received respectively 1,800, 1,800, and 1,100 votes. At the second election, December 22, Mr. Wells was elected. Mr. Wells, who had previously been a member of the Common Council and Board of Aldermen, was a man of simple character, not much versed in public affairs. His two terms were uneventful excepting for the erection of the Court-house in Court Square, the extension of Broad, Commercial, and Tremont Streets, and the establishment of quarantine regulations, by which Boston was protected in 1832 from the cholera, then prevalent in the British Provinces. He died June 23, 1866.

THEODORE LYMAN

Fifth Mayor, 1834–35

Theodore Lyman, the son of a successful merchant, was born February 20, 1792, and was educated at Phillips Exeter Academy and at Harvard, graduating in the class of 1810. After leaving college, he went abroad, where he spent four years, a part of the time travelling with Edward Everett. He was in Paris when the allied armies entered the city, and has given a vivid account of the scenes in his book, "Three Weeks in Paris." He also wrote a book on "The Political State of Italy" and one on "Diplomacy of the United States with Foreign Nations."

He was fond of military science, and served for a time as a general of the Boston Brigade of Militia. His predilection, however, was for literary pursuits, although he gave some attention to politics. He became a member of the legislature, and in December, 1833, was chosen mayor, serving during 1834 and 1835. As only a small part of the city received

Digitized by Google

Samuel T. Armstrong

Samuel A. Eliot

Digitized by Google

water from Jamaica Pond through four main pipes of pitch-pine logs, one of his first acts was to call the attention of the Common Council to the need of bringing a steady supply of pure water to Boston. Colonel Loammi Baldwin, the distinguished civil engineer who had built the Milldam Driveway, reported that Farm Pond in Framingham and Long Pond in Natick were the most available sources, but nothing was done except to discuss the project until the administration of Josiah Quincy, Jr., in 1846.

During Lyman's administration the Ursuline Convent on Mount Benedict in Charlestown (now Somerville) was attacked and burned on the night of August 11, 1834, by a mob which had become incited by stories that nuns were locked in underground cells and that Protestant pupils were forced to become Catholics. The next day the mob which had collected was sent scurrying by the rumor that a horseman was galloping off to call the militia.

Mayor Lyman established the State Reform School at Westboro, and gave it $22,500 during his lifetime and $50,000 more in his will. At his suggestion a similar school for girls was begun at Lancaster. It was during Mr. Lyman's mayoralty that the Garrison mob gathered. A meeting of the female anti-slavery society was held on the afternoon of October 21, 1835, at the office of William Lloyd Garrison's *Liberator* at 46 Washington Street. As there was much feeling against abolition, a mob gathered, which the few constables were unable to handle, and Mayor Lyman went with more men. Garrison attempted to escape from the mob by a back window into Wilson's Lane, now Devonshire Street, but was seized by the mob and dragged as far as the old State House, a part of which was then used as a City Hall, where he was rescued by the police and taken into the building; Mayor Lyman shielding him with his own body from the mob. To save Garrison from the mob, Mayor Lyman placed him in the carriage and drove him to the jail, where he was locked up, ostensibly as a disturber of the peace, but he was released the next day. The mayor was subsequently much criticised for not providing proper police protection for Garrison in the beginning and for not calling out the militia instead of treating Garrison as a criminal. It is but fair to Mayor Lyman to say that Garrison consented to Mayor Lyman's action, and was very glad to escape the mob by going to jail.

Lyman's public life ended in 1836 with the election of Samuel T. Armstrong, and he spent the last of his life helping the criminal classes. He died July 18, 1849, a few days after he returned from Europe, where he had been travelling with his son. His wife had died some years before.

SAMUEL TURELL ARMSTRONG

Sixth Mayor, 1836

Samuel Turell Armstrong was born in Dorchester, April 29, 1784, his father being Captain John Armstrong. He learned the trade of a printer, and began business as printer and publisher with Joshua Belcher. One of their earliest productions was a literary work called "The Emerald." After the dissolution of his partnership with Belcher he set up a shop in

Digitized by Google

Charlestown, and there published the first number of the *Panoplist*, a monthly magazine relating to religious topics and missionary work.

In 1811 he moved to Boston, and opened at 50 Cornhill a store and publishing house, which became the mart of the religious literature for the orthodox churches. He took into the firm Uriel Crocker and Osmyn Brewster, his apprentices, and, though the general partnership was later dissolved, Armstrong was connected with the firm till his death. One of his publications in 1820 was Scott's Family Bible in six royal octavo volumes, one of the earliest instances of stereotyping on a large scale in America.

He was captain of the "Warren Phalanx" in Charlestown during the War of 1812, twice a representative of Boston in the legislature, once senator from Suffolk, lieutenant governor of Massachusetts for two terms under Governor Levi Lincoln and Governor John Davis, and in 1835 he was acting governor, Governor Davis having gone to the Senate. The principal events in Mayor Armstrong's administration were the erection of the gloomy iron fence that originally enclosed four sides of the Common, the extension of the Mall through the burial-ground on Boylston Street, and the completion of the Court-house in Court Square. He was a member of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, and president in 1828 and 1829; and in 1845 he became a member of the New England Historic-Genealogical Society, and contributed generously to its foundation. His wife was Abigail Walker, the daughter of the Hon. Timothy Walker of Charlestown. He died March 26, 1850.

SAMUEL ATKINS ELIOT

Seventh Mayor, 1837–38–39

Samuel Atkins Eliot, who was the father of Charles W. Eliot, president emeritus of Harvard, came of a long line of distinguished ancestors, the first of whom to come to this country arrived in 1668. He was the son of Samuel and Catherine Atkins Eliot, and inherited from them a moderate fortune, which was increased by the estate brought him by his wife, who was a sister of Mayor Lyman.

He was born March 5, 1798, and graduated from Harvard in 1817 and from the Divinity School in 1820. Instead of entering the ministry, he spent three years studying languages and literature in Europe, and then devoted much of his time gratuitously to public service and charitable work.

He was much interested in the Prison Discipline Society, was first president of the Boston Academy of Music, under whose auspices Beethoven's Symphonies were first given in Boston. As a member of the School Committee, he introduced music into the public-school curriculum of Boston, which thus became the first American city to make music a part of the public instruction. He served on the Board of Aldermen and in the state legislature. Eliot was mayor at a time when Boston needed a strong hand to save the city from the worst element, which was getting control. His efforts to organize both the Police and Fire Departments were successful only so far as the Fire Department was concerned. This

Digitized by Google

department, having become a nuisance and a menace, as firemen received no compensation, but were allowed a certain amount for "refreshments," a hoodlum element was attracted which soon filled the fire companies and made them as prone to riot as to put out fires. A crisis was finally reached on June 11, 1837, when an Irish funeral "collided" with an engine company coming from a fire. A fire alarm brought out another company, and soon 15,000 people were engaged in the riot, houses were barricaded, blood was spilled, and finally peace was restored by the mayor's arrival at the head of 800 Lancers and Infantry. This resulted in the establishment of a paid force. He also created the first organized day police. Previous to this there was no day police, but a night watch only, consisting of 110 watchmen and 10 constables, who were on duty from 7 P.M. in the summer and 6 P.M. in the winter until sunrise. During his term of office a hospital for the insane was erected and opened in South Boston. He was elected to Congress in 1850 to fill out the unexpired term of Robert C. Winthrop. Although a friend of the negro, he voted for the fugitive slave law, believing that the only way to preserve the Union, prevent war, and help the negro, was to support the actual Constitution. Near the end of his life a firm in which he was a silent partner failed, and he gave up all his property to meet the debt. Returning to Cambridge in "honorable poverty," he spent his time writing and editing books. He died January 29, 1862, one of the most respected citizens of his day.

JONATHAN CHAPMAN

Eighth Mayor, 1840–41–42

Jonathan Chapman was born January 23, 1807, and was the son of Jonathan Chapman, who had been a selectman of Boston. Preparing for college at Phillips Academy, he was graduated at Harvard and studied law under Judge Lemuel Shaw, then went into politics, and was elected mayor in December, 1839, and held office for three years. As the city debt had nearly doubled in eighteen years, though there had been a proportionate increase in the value of the property owned by the city, Mayor Chapman recommended a reduction of the city debt as the chief aim of his administration.

In his inaugural speech in 1841 Chapman spoke of the great commercial importance to Boston of the establishment in 1840 of the Cunard Line between Boston and Liverpool, and the opening of the new Western Railroad to the Hudson River. The old County Court-house was made over for the City Hall, and was occupied March 18, 1841.

During his term of office he employed an extra police force to prosecute violations of the laws regarding liquor licenses. He was a brilliant speaker, and had considerable literary ability, contributing to the *North American Review* and other periodicals. He died May 25, 1848.

Digitized by Google

Jonathan Chapman

Martin Brimmer

Digitized by Google

MARTIN BRIMMER

Ninth Mayor, 1843–44

Mayor Brimmer was described as "a most amiable and upright character, a gentleman without reproach and a most useful citizen." He was born in Roxbury, June 8, 1793, the son of Martin and Sarah Brimmer; graduated from Harvard in 1814, where he was captain of the University Corps; and began business in the store of Theodore Lyman, Jr., but later went with Isaac Winslow & Co. on Long Wharf. He was alderman in 1838, and mayor two years.

He was interested in education, and at his own expense printed and distributed to every school in Massachusetts "The School and the Schoolmaster." Militia affairs also attracted his attention. He was ensign in the Third Regiment, Third Brigade, First Division, in 1815, 1816, and 1817, and lieutenant of the same in 1818. From 1819 to 1822, inclusive, he was captain of the Rangers, and brigade major under General Lyman from 1823 to 1826, inclusive.

He became captain of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company in 1826, and in 1845 commander of the reorganized Independent Corps of Cadets. Brimmer was elected mayor as the Whig candidate. He had made a study of the disciplining and construction of prisons, and made suggestions that were carried out when the new prison was erected on Charles Street. He believed in extending and beautifying the streets and public places, in giving careful attention to health and police matters, and in a liberal encouragement of charitable and literary institutions. His death occurred on April 25, 1847.

THOMAS ASPINWALL DAVIS

Tenth Mayor, 1845

Thomas Aspinwall Davis's ancestors were among the earliest settlers of Brookline, where he was born, December 11, 1798. He was educated in the public schools, learned the trade of a jeweller, and later became interested in politics, becoming the candidate for mayor of a new party called the "Native American Party" against Josiah Quincy, Jr., and Adam W. Thaxter, Jr. Quincy withdrew, and finally Davis was elected on the eighth ballot. The only project of importance during his administration was an effort to get a supply of city water from Long Pond, but it was defeated. Davis's health became so poor that he offered his resignation, which was not accepted and he continued to be the nominal mayor until he died, November 22, 1845. He bore an excellent character, but lacked the qualifications to make a successful administrator.

JOSIAH QUINCY, JR.

Eleventh Mayor, 1846–47–48

Josiah Quincy, Jr., was another of Boston's great mayors. During his administration the city secured the Long Pond, or Cochituate, water supply. His father, Boston's second mayor, had urged the securing of city water for Boston from the Charles or Neponset Rivers. Josiah,

Digitized by Google

Thomas A. Davis

Josiah Quincy, Jr.

Digitized by Google

Jr., took up the project, and Loammi Baldwin, the eminent engineer, planned and constructed the Cochituate supply system, which cost $5,000,000, but brought water to every street in Boston. It was laughingly said of Quincy, the junior: "He has written his name in water, yet it will last forever. The people of Boston have never found him dry, and he has taken care that they never shall be so."

The mayor, aided by his father and the venerable John Quincy Adams, broke ground for the work at Long Pond, August 20, 1846. A banquet followed, at which the mayor suggested that, as the name Long Pond was without distinction, it should be changed to Cochituate, the Indian name. The suggestion was adopted, and so this source of supply has since been known as Cochituate. The tumult of one hundred guns and the ringing of all the church bells greeted the rising of the sun on the day of the opening of the supply, October 25, 1848. A procession marched to the Common, where children sang an ode written by James Russell Lowell. Mayor Quincy and Nathan Hale, chairman of the Water Commission, made speeches, and the citizens were asked if it was their pleasure that water should be introduced. After a great roar of affirmation a gate was thrown open, and a column of water six inches through leaped 80 feet into the air. Bells again rang, cannons were fired, and in the evening a display of fireworks occurred.

Quincy was born January 17, 1802, in Boston on Pearl Street, fitted for Harvard at Phillips Academy, Andover, and graduated from college in 1821. He read law with William Sullivan, and was admitted to the bar, and married Jane, the daughter of Samuel R. Miller. Military affairs early attracted his attention. In 1833 he was a member of the City Council, and from 1834 to 1837 its president. He became president of the Senate in 1842, and mayor of Boston in 1846. His veto, while chairman of the Board of Aldermen, of the liquor license showed great courage and elicited the admiration of his fellow-citizens.

Great financial ability was shown by him in handling the Western Railroad, and he also displayed much ability as treasurer of the Central Vermont. He was treasurer of the Boston Athenæum in 1837, and continued such for fifteen years. As chairman of the Building Committee of the Athenæum, he personally indorsed loans to a large amount to help in erecting the building on Beacon Street. Mr. Quincy presided February 2, 1842, at the public festival in honor of Charles Dickens.

"The mayor of the city of Salem sends his compliments to the mayor of the city of Boston, congratulating him on the new bond of union between the two cities," came over the telegraph wire when it was first stretched in December, 1847, between the two cities. Quincy replied, "The mayor of Boston reciprocates the compliment of the mayor of Salem, and rejoices that letters of light connect the metropolis with the birthplace of Bowditch." Mayor Quincy about this time remarked "that rum mixed with gunpowder was not the only means of inspiring courage," and "that men who stand alone are best fitted to stand together." During his administration the police were reorganized, and just before he retired from office he signed the contract for the erection of the new jail at the corner of Charles and Cambridge Streets. He died November 2, 1882.

Digitized by Google

John P. Bigelow

Benjamin Seaver

Digitized by Google

JOHN PRESCOTT BIGELOW

Twelfth Mayor, 1849–50–51

John Prescott Bigelow was the son of Timothy Bigelow, who for eleven years was speaker of the House of Representatives and was a grandson of Colonel Timothy Bigelow, the Revolutionary hero of Worcester. His birthplace was Groton, Mass., where he was born August 25, 1797. Bigelow entered Harvard, and graduated in 1815.

He was admitted to the bar in 1818. In 1824 he went abroad, where he spent some years. His wife died in 1847, and his son also was taken from him, and he turned to politics, in which he had early taken an interest.

He became a member of the Common Council for Ward 9, where he served nine years, being in 1832 and 1833 president of the council. He was one of those who worked the hardest to stay the cholera scourge which afflicted Boston. In 1828 the Whigs elected him to the House of Representatives of Massachusetts, to which he was re-elected with the exception of one year until 1836. He was prominent in the movement to reduce the number of membership (which was then over 700), was active on many committees, and took a leading part in railroad legislation.

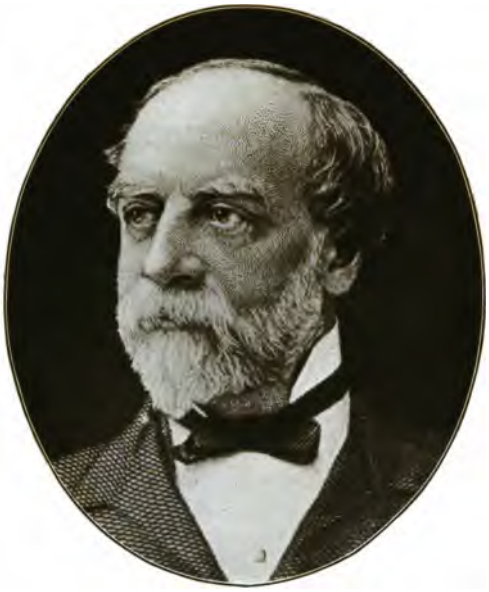
From 1836 to 1843 he served as Secretary of State with marked ability, and then became a member of the Executive Council under Governor Briggs, serving four years. He was elected mayor in 1848. During his tenure of office the jail at Charles and Cambridge Streets was completed at a cost of $450,000. In the summer of 1849 Asiatic cholera caused the death of no less than 5,080 people out of a population of 130,000. An event that was fraught with much trouble for Mayor Bigelow was a meeting in 1850 at Faneuil Hall to congratulate George Thompson, the abolitionist, upon his arrival in this country. Cheers for Daniel Webster, Jenny Lind, and the Union, which the police, acting under instructions from Mayor Bigelow, did nothing to stop, broke up the meeting. The next year the Board of Aldermen declined to allow the use of Faneuil Hall for a reception to Daniel Webster, because of the fear of a disturbance. Webster and his friends were furious, and when the Common Council, with the concurrence of the mayor, later sent a committee to wait upon Webster at the Revere House and "tender him in the name of the City Council an invitation to meet and address his fellow-citizens in Faneuil Hall," Webster curtly replied it was not convenient for him to accept. At the next election the mayor and council were all retired to private life.

In 1851, the last term of Bigelow, every section of Boston was supplied with pure water at a cost of $4,321,000, the new almshouse was built on Deer Island, a system of telegraphic fire alarms invented by Dr. William F. Channing was installed, and the great pageant was held to celebrate the completion of the railroads between Boston and Canada and the Great Lakes.

On Mayor Bigelow's retirement a number of friends wished to show him their appreciation by presenting him with a silver vase. He asked that the money be given to the Public Library, and this was the first gift the library received. Mr. Bigelow became one of its Board of Trustees. He died July 4, 1872.

Digitized by Google

Jerome V. C. Smith



Alexander H. Rice

Digitized by Google

BENJAMIN SEAVER

Thirteenth Mayor, 1852–53

Benjamin Seaver was born April 12, 1795, was educated in the Roxbury Grammar School, and at the time of his election was an auctioneer. He was supported by Marshal Francis Tukey, who directed his men to work for him, but this did not prevent Seaver from removing Tukey from office, when Tukey criticised changes Seaver made. Seaver ran for mayor a third time, but was defeated by Mayor Smith. He died February 14, 1856.

During Seaver's administration it was voted to erect a building for the Boston Public Library, and in December, 1853, a revision of the city charter was proposed. An act was also passed prohibiting the burial, except in certain cases, of people within the city limits. The administration was marked by efficiency and economy, as it was felt that the previous administration had put the city to great expense.

JEROME VAN CROWNINSHIELD SMITH

Fourteenth Mayor, 1854–55

Mayor Smith was an eminent practitioner of medicine as well as a littérateur of considerable ability. He was born July 20, 1800, at Conway, N.H., where his father practised medicine. After an A.M. degree, Smith secured also an M.D. from Williams College. He studied surgery under Dr. William Ingalls, an eminent surgeon of Boston, and as a pastime took up sculpture, executing the busts of Bishop Fitzpatrick, Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, Bishop Eastburn, and others.

He became editor of the Boston *Medical Intelligencer*, later known as Boston *Medical and Surgical Journal*, editing more than forty volumes thereof, and also made authoritative notes to an edition of Cooper's "Surgery." He edited the Boston *Weekly News Letter*, and was the author of a treatise on the culture of the honey-bee and a history of the American Indian.

His first public office was in 1826, when he became port physician. In 1837 he was elected to the state legislature, and put through a capitation tax on foreigners arriving at any port in Massachusetts, the money being used to care for poor and sick immigrants. The law was finally declared unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court. Dr. Smith served on the School Committee and also as a justice of the peace. In 1848 he was re-elected to the legislature, and was a candidate for mayor in 1852, and was finally elected in 1854. While in office, he advocated the introduction of pure water at city expense. Dr. Smith made many suggestions for the improvement of the city's government, though, fortunately for the city's credit, few of them were carried out. He recommended the sale of Quincy Market to private individuals; the erection of an insane asylum on Deer Island; the erection of a tall tower on Beacon Hill for the use of the Fire Telegraph and Fire Department offices; a forced sale of city land in order to promote the erection of build-

Digitized by Google

Frederick W. Lincoln, Jr.

Joseph M. Wightman

Digitized by Google

ings. He also advocated the appointment of a physician in each ward to serve the poor and to be paid by the city. His administration was not marked by any great achievement. His death occurred August 21, 1879.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON RICE

Fifteenth Mayor, 1856–57

Alexander Hamilton Rice was born August 30, 1818, at Newton Lower Falls, where his father was a paper manufacturer. He was educated in the Newton public schools, and entered the paper and publishing business. Acquiring a taste for literature, he went to Union College at Schenectady, and then went into business again, becoming a prominent paper manufacturer and dealer. Public affairs early attracted his attention. He held many offices, serving as a member of the Boston School Committee, Board of Public Institutions, Common Council, president of the Board of Trade, and as first Republican mayor of Boston. During his term as mayor the Back Bay was developed, the City Hospital started, and the Boston Public Library dedicated on Boylston Street. His speeches were brilliant efforts, particularly the ones at the unveiling of Washington's statue in the Boston Public Garden, of the Sumner and Farragut statues, and at the opening of the Marine Park in South Boston. During his second term Devonshire Street was laid out from Milk to Franklin, and Winthrop Square was opened.

Although he gave the preference to members of his own party in his appointments as mayor, he acted quite independently of party lines in retaining every faithful and competent official he found in office. He reorganized the police system and consolidated the boards of government of public institutions. He went to Congress in 1859, serving in the 36th, 37th, 38th, and 39th Congresses, and in 1867 declined a renomination. He took an active part in the reconstruction of the Union, served on the Committees on the District of Columbia, the Pacific Railroad, and Naval Affairs, one of his duties at the beginning of the Civil War being to collect the widely scattered navy. He made an elaborate report on the use of steam machinery in the navy, and carried its adoption in the face of much opposition.

From 1876 to 1878 Rice was governor of Massachusetts. He interested himself in education and in the state institutions for correction, reform, lunacy, and charity. He received while governor the degree of LL.D. from Harvard. He was a trustee of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and of the Museum of Fine Arts. He died July 22, 1895.

FREDERICK WALKER LINCOLN, JR.

Sixteenth Mayor, 1858–59–60, 1863–64–65–66

Frederick Walker Lincoln, Jr., was born in Boston, February 27, 1817, and was educated at public and private schools, learned the trade of a maker of mathematical instruments, and soon rose to be a prominent business man. He was a member of the lower house of the legislature in 1847–48, and was a delegate in 1853 to the Constitutional Convention.

Digitized by Google

When he attempted, during his first term as mayor, to uniform the police, the violent opposition which it engendered charged that he was copying the "liveried servants" of the Old World. On the other hand, his supporters said they had difficulty in finding a policeman in citizen's clothes, and welcomed the change which would make the policemen more conspicuous. It was Lincoln's practice to go about the city at night, often disguised, visiting saloons and gambling houses to learn if the laws were enforced. He was one of the first to perceive the need of the government taking steps to preserve Boston Harbor, and his efforts in this direction bore fruit in 1859 in obtaining the co-operation of the United States government. In the same year plans for the improvement of the Public Garden were completed, but Lincoln's project of preserving the Back Bay as an open space was defeated.

The slavery question was the most troublesome one during his administration. On December 3, 1860, occurred a collision between the abolitionists and the supporters of slavery. At a meeting held in Tremont Temple for the commemoration of the execution of John Brown and to consider the question of how American slavery could be abolished, pro-slavery men seized the hall, which was not protected by the authorities, and after filling it passed resolutions denouncing John Brown. The mayor had the hall cleared, and later an anti-slavery meeting was held in a colored church. Incipient riots followed, which the police, with a reserve of cavalry, speedily quelled. The conscript riots against drafting followed. Some women attacked a draft officer near the Boston Gas Light Company, and a mob collected, which surrounded the police station and the Armory. Firearms were stolen from a shop, and for a time there was a riot at Dock Square. Lincoln called out all the soldiers, and the trouble was stopped. During his administration the City Council gained the right to widen, lay out, and grade streets, and to assess abutters for the improvements. The Soldiers and Sailors Monument on the Common was erected, free public baths were started, Fort Hill was removed and the material used in filling the Back Bay, the new City Hall was first occupied, and steps were taken to construct the Chestnut Hill Reservoir during Mayor Lincoln's administration. As too much money had been spent by the city on junkets, street widening, new buildings, for the straitened war times, Lincoln was re-elected in 1863 to cut down expenses.

After his retirement he continued to serve the city on such boards as Overseers of the Poor and Harbor Commissioners, and was one of the Relief Committee after the Boston Fire. He died September 13, 1898.

JOSEPH MILNER WIGHTMAN

Seventeenth Mayor, 1861–62

Joseph Milner Wightman, who was born in Boston, October 19, 1812, of English parents, was apprenticed to a machinist, took up mathematics, physics, and engineering in his spare time, and finally became a manufacturer of surgical instruments. The discussion about a city water supply enlisted his service, and led him to enter politics. He was on the School Committee for ten years, 1845–49 and from 1856–59 on the Board of Aldermen. The refusal of Moses Kimball to give the old line

Digitized by Google

and Webster Whigs the use of Faneuil Hall for a Webster meeting resulted in his defeat for the mayoralty and the election of Wightman. Wightman showed no judgment in declining to allow anti-slavery agitators to hold a meeting in Tremont Hall. As the anti-slavery agitators feared that under Wightman, a Democrat, they would be deprived of free speech, they introduced a measure into the State Senate to give the state control of the police, which was eventually defeated. While action was pending on the measure, a meeting of anti-slavery advocates was held in Faneuil Hall, but the thirty police present made no effort to maintain order, and the meeting was soon interrupted by groans and hisses. At the request of the trustees of the building, who feared it would be injured, the mayor had the galleries cleared, but the trouble broke out again, and the meeting decided to adjourn until evening, when admission would be by ticket. When some of the disturbers said they would remain until evening, the mayor had the building cleared and refused to allow the evening meeting.

He was very successful in supplying money for the expenses of fitting out soldiers and in providing for their subsistence. He also arranged so that the soldiers' pay could be remitted through him to their families. He laid the corner-stone of the new City Hall, December 23, 1862. Enthusiasm and energy were his in abundance, but he was a man of poor judgment. His death occurred January 28, 1885.

OTIS NORCROSS

Eighteenth Mayor, 1867

Otis Norcross was one of the few mayors who could truthfully say that during his connection with city affairs he never used a dollar of city money for his own use, never sold the city a dollar's worth of merchandise, never made a contract with the city directly or indirectly, and never put a friend or relative into office of any kind. He was born in the North End, November 2, 1811, studied at Miss Davenport's School and then at Abel Whitney's School. He later went to the English High School, and at fourteen became an apprentice in his father's firm, Otis Norcross & Co., crockery dealers. His father died in 1827, and the son became a partner, retiring from business in 1867.

In 1871 he was one of the Boston Committee to relieve the Chicago fire sufferers; and in 1872, while the Boston Fire was raging, he was made treasurer of the Relief Committee.

While a member of the Water Board in 1865, he helped in promoting the construction of the Chestnut Hill Reservoir. During his term as mayor, Roxbury was annexed. He welcomed President Johnson and General Sheridan as guests of the city, vetoed an order of the City Council for building an insane hospital at Winthrop, and was a member of a commission which selected a site for the new post-office. His failure to receive the customary second term was due to the stiffness of his virtue, for he was not pliable enough to suit the politicians. He was one of the commission in 1873 for a new charter, which was not adopted. He was one of the original members of the Union Club, life member of the Boston

Digitized by Google

Otis Norcross

Nathaniel B. Shurtleff

Digitized by Google

Natural History Society, on the Board of Trustees of the Institute of Technology, member of the New England Historic-Genealogical Society, and a member of many other organizations. His death occurred on September 5, 1882.

NATHANIEL BRADSTREET SHURTLEFF

Nineteenth Mayor, 1868–69–70

Shurtleff is more known for his antiquarian labors than for his work as mayor, although during his mayoralty many new streets and much territory were added to Boston. He was born in Boston, June 29, 1810, his father, Benjamin Shurtleff, being a physician. He was educated in the Boston public schools, the Round Hill School, and at Harvard and the Harvard Medical School, where he became a medical demonstrator, and later succeeded to his father's large practice. He was elected mayor, December 9, 1867, on the Democratic ticket.

He was not a good judge of human nature, knew little of the proper method of government, and, therefore, was not much of a success as a mayor. While he was in office, Atlantic Avenue was laid out along the line of the old Barricado, which connected the North Battery with the South, or Sconce, Broadway in South Boston was extended, Federal Street was widened, the East Boston ferries were taken over by the city, and Dorchester was added to Boston. During his term the power to lay out streets was taken from the Board of Aldermen and given to the Street Commissioners. He died October 17, 1874.

He was the author of "A Topographical and Historical Description of Boston," and he edited the Massachusetts Colony Records and the New Plymouth Colony Records. He held many degrees, was a member of many historical societies, and was a member and secretary of the Board of Overseers of Harvard.

WILLIAM GASTON

Twentieth Mayor, 1871–72

William Gaston was one of Boston's potent forces at a time when strong men were needed at the helm of administration; nor can we wonder he was of a forceful character, when we learn that in his veins flowed the blood of the French Huguenots, a strain of the "Mayflower" Pilgrims, and also the blood of one of the followers of Roger Williams. One of his ancestors was Jean Gaston, a French Huguenot who, banished from France in the seventeenth century, sought refuge in Scotland, whence his sons in turn were driven by religious persecution, and found refuge in the north of Ireland. John Gaston, one of their descendants and the great-grandfather of Mayor Gaston, joined the Separatist colony in America, and was a freeman of Voluntown when the town was organized in 1736–37. It is said that he originally landed at Marblehead, Mass. Alexander Gaston, the mayor's father (whose brother, William Gaston, was afterward United States Senator from North Carolina), had as second wife Kezia Arnold, of Brownville, R.I., and lived at Killingly, Conn., where their child, William Gaston, was born, October 3, 1820. William, whose

Digitized by Google

William Gaston

Henry L. Pierce

Digitized by Google

family crest was an owl, the bird of wisdom, studied at Plainfield Academy, and entered Brown University when he was but fifteen. As a boy, he was active in all outdoor sports, yet eager and persistent in the pursuit of knowledge. He graduated with honors in 1840, and went to Boston, where he entered the law office of Judge Francis Hillard, of Roxbury. Completing his law course under Benjamin R. Curtis, later the justice of the United States Supreme Court who dissented from the Dred Scott decision, Gaston was admitted to the bar in 1844, began practice at Roxbury, and soon rose to be a leader of the Suffolk bar, where he was long noted as one of the ablest cross-examiners and jury lawyers.

He had tact, talent, magnetism, earnestness, integrity, and tireless energy. His first public office was city solicitor of Roxbury, and he had served five years when he was elected by the Whigs to the legislature, and was re-elected in 1854 and in 1856. In 1861–62, after a brief retirement to private life, he was elected mayor of Roxbury. At the outbreak of the war he was most active in raising volunteers for the Union armies, and in 1862, after his election as mayor of Roxbury, he made a speech before the City Council in which he said:—

"The duties of every citizen are now a hundred-fold greater than in times of peace. Patriotism can now find no excuse in lethargy or in inaction. A man, to be worth anything, must be awake, decided, and energetic. He who slumbers had better be dead. He who doubts had better be a traitor, for open treason is better than dead patriotism. The courage which rises with every obstacle is the courage which prevails."

Often during the war he was at the front, visiting hospitals in search of Roxbury soldiers and bringing home news and messages to their friends. In 1868 he was elected to the State Senate, and was a conspicuous leader of the Democracy. He served as one of the commissioners for the union of Roxbury and Boston, and in 1871 was elected mayor of Boston, and served during 1871 and 1872. At the time of the Great Fire he ordered a number of buildings in the path of the fire blown up, in order to save the city, and was urged by the citizens to blow up more. Later he was glad that he did not accede to their requests, for he was sued personally by some of the citizens whose buildings he had demolished. In 1875 he was chosen governor of the Commonwealth, and was the first Democrat to hold the office after the formation of the Republican party. Upon becoming governor, he gave up entirely his legal practice, so that, when he again retired to private life, he had to build up his practice again, but he soon became one of the leaders of the bar, and was always a figure of state-wide prominence. Both Harvard and Brown gave him the degree of LL.D., which is said to have given him greater gratification than all his political honors. He died on January 19, 1894.

HENRY LILLIE PIERCE

Twenty-first Mayor, 1873 and 1878

To Henry Lillie Pierce belongs the distinction of building up a small chocolate mill into the largest of its kind in America and having made the name Walter Baker known all over the world. The original chocolate mill was on the Dorchester side of the Neponset River, on the site

Digitized by Google

of what was called the Lower Mills. Here, according to the best information, the manufacture of chocolate was begun in America in 1765 by an Irish emigrant, "John Hannan." He wandered one day into the little saw-mill which stood on the Neponset, and asserted that he had learned in London a way to make a new kind of chocolate, and, if he could use a corner of the mill and a little water power, he could build up a good business. A part of the mill was set aside for his use, and he started the business, which later came into the possession of Dr. James Baker, then went to his son Edmund Baker, his grandson Walter Baker, and finally was acquired by his grandson's half-nephew, Henry L. Pierce. At the time that Pierce assumed control the business was profitable, but very small. At the end of forty-two years (1854–96) it had grown under Pierce's wise management to be the largest manufactory of its kind on the continent. As he always paid his employees well and treated them kindly, no labor troubles ever disturbed his work.

Pierce was born August 23, 1825, at Stoughton. His father was an austere New England Methodist, and his mother was a strong-minded, out-spoken woman of pronounced prejudices. The son went to the various town schools and later to the Normal School.

Pierce later went to work at $3 a week in the mill of his mother's half-brother, Walter Baker. He and his half-uncle did not agree politically, and the friction became such that in a year Baker left and went West, where he vainly tried to get employment. He finally went back to his uncle's chocolate mill, and was put in charge of the Boston counting-room, just opened. Mr. Baker died in 1852, and his partner, Sidney B. Williams, in 1854. After prolonged negotiations the trustees of the Baker estate leased the chocolate plant to Mr. Pierce, and he was so successful that in 1884 the trustees conveyed the property to him.

Mr. Pierce early became interested in political subjects, upon which he spoke and wrote. He was an ardent supporter of the Free Soil party, from which sprang Republicanism. Pierce helped to organize the straight Republican party as a protest against those Republicans who had coalesced with the "Know-nothing" party, which swept the state in 1854. In 1857 he was nominated treasurer and receiver-general of the party. He was sent in 1859 from Dorchester to the General Court, and served in 1860–61–62, becoming the leader of the Radical Republicans who opposed any concessions to the slaveholders.

In 1869 he became a member of the Boston Board of Aldermen, as the first representative from the Dorchester section. The failure of the city authorities to check the small-pox epidemic, as well as their want of executive ability at the time of the Great Fire in 1872, led the business men to ask Mr. Pierce to run for mayor as non-partisan candidate, and he was elected by a close vote.

He established a small-pox hospital, and effected the reorganization of the Health and Fire Departments. Mr. Pierce successfully urged a commission to revise the city charter, and the opening of the Public Library Reading-room on Sunday. He was elected to Congress in November, 1873, and on the 1st of December resigned as mayor. In response to a petition he again ran for mayor, and was elected. One of his principal acts was to reorganize the Police Department on an efficient basis.

Digitized by Google

He was active in 1881 in the formation of the Massachusetts Tariff Reform League, of which Charles Francis Adams, Jr., became president. His eyes began to fail him during his last years, and he was advised by his physicians to be outdoors as much as possible. As he was very fond of the water, he spent much time on his yacht, cruising along the coast and crossing the Atlantic no less than thirty-five times, visiting every place worth while in Europe. He finally caught cold on a trip to Chicago, was stricken with paralysis, and died September 17, 1896.

SAMUEL CROCKER COBB

Twenty-second Mayor, 1874–75–76

Samuel Crocker Cobb was long one of the merchants who carried on a foreign trade with Europe and South America. He was born at Taunton, May 22, 1826, and prepared for Harvard at Bristol Academy, Taunton, a school founded by his grandfather. But he was obliged to go to work when about sixteen as a clerk with A. & C. Cunningham, foreign shipping merchants at 15 Rowe's Wharf. In 1847 he went into business with J. Henry Cunningham, his friend and fellow-clerk, under the name of Cunningham & Cobb. He was an alderman for Roxbury in 1860, and, when Roxbury was annexed, became a member of the Boston Board of Aldermen.

At a meeting of the citizens November 11, 1873, he was nominated for mayor, and was elected by 19,191 votes. So great was the demand for his renomination that he again ran, and was elected unanimously; and again he was elected in 1875. As the annexation of Charlestown, West Roxbury, and Brighton had added forty-four thousand inhabitants to Boston, Mayor Cobb supported heartily the revision of the charter by the commission which had been appointed by Mayor Pierce. The recommendation of the commission was not adopted, but many of the provisions they suggested were afterward incorporated in special laws. He recommended the petition to the General Court for organizing the present system of public parks, established a paid Water Board, and helped to pass an act limiting the indebtedness of municipalities. After he retired from office he had many public and private trusts, and was a director in many institutions. At the time of his death, February 18, 1891, he was president of the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati.

FREDERICK OCTAVIUS PRINCE

Twenty-third Mayor, 1877–79–80–81

Frederick Octavius Prince, who was noted primarily for his eloquent speeches, had a long line of ancestors who were more or less prominent in Boston. He could trace his line back to 1584, when John Prince, rector of East Sheffield, Berkshire, England, owned the estate called Abbey Foregate. Elder John Prince, of Hull, came to this country in 1633, and his grandson, Thomas Prince, who graduated from Harvard in 1707, was co-pastor of the Old South Church. Mayor Prince was born January 18, 1818. He fitted for college at the Boston Latin School, and

Digitized by Google

Samuel C. Cobb

Frederick O. Prince

Digitized by Google

was Class Poet at Harvard. He studied law, and became a member of the legislature for Winchester, serving in 1851, 1852, 1853, attaining great popularity by his speeches on reform. In 1854 he was a member of the Constitutional Convention and also of the State Senate. He attended many Democratic national conventions. He was elected mayor by the Democrats, and was economical during the first half of his administration, but later sunk much money on the East Boston ferries. He adopted the Public Park scheme, improved the sewage system, and was instrumental in building the English and Latin High School buildings.

He had tact, sagacity, and energy, but was often unable to make party and civic interests meet. He died June 6, 1899.

SAMUEL ABBOTT GREEN

Twenty-fourth Mayor, 1882

Dr. Samuel Abbott Green, who enjoys the distinction of being Boston's oldest ex-mayor, and now holds the position of librarian and vice-president of the Massachusetts Historical Society, was born in Groton, March 16, 1830. His ancestors came here in 1636. He was educated at Groton Academy, now Lawrence Academy, and at Harvard. After four years' study abroad in some of the best hospitals, he returned to Boston and began the practice of medicine. He became in 1858 surgeon of the Second Massachusetts Militia Regiment, and went to the front at the outbreak of the War, where he served with distinction in his chosen profession. He planned the cemetery on Roanoke Island, one of the first cemeteries for soldiers who fell in the Civil War, and had charge of the hospital ship "Recruit" on the Burnside expedition to Roanoke Island. His official connection with the city of his adoption extends over many years and covers a wide range of activities.

In 1860–62 he was a member of the School Board and again in 1865–72, when he was also superintendent of the Boston Dispensary. From 1868–78 he was trustee of the Boston Public Library, and acting librarian from 1877 to 1878. He was the giver of the Franklin collection of books and engravings now in the Public Library, city physician 1871–82, and was in the last part of 1881 elected mayor as a candidate of the Citizens and Republican parties. During his administration, politicians found that it did not pay to lounge in the corridors of the City Hall. The Police Commissioners were removed, and receipts from liquor licenses increased by over $22,000. In a paper advocating his re-election it was said:—

"For ten years city physician, he has probably a more intimate knowledge of the poor and a firmer hold upon their heart-strings than any man in the community. His home is, and has been for a long period, in Kneeland Street, and there, in the very midst of the suffering classes, he has been ever ready to listen to any tale of sorrow or discouragement and any request for counsel or comfort from the lips of the needy."

When the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII. of England, visited Boston, he was shown over the rooms of the Massachusetts Historical Society where Dr. Green was librarian. The Prince was much inter-

Digitized by Google

Samuel A. Green

Albert Palmer

Digitized by Google

ested in John Winthrop's History of New England and Washington's epaulets. The date of the visit happened to be the anniversary of the surrender of Cornwallis.

Ex-Mayor Green lived in Kneeland Street and on Harrison Avenue for over half a century.

ALBERT PALMER

Twenty-fifth Mayor, 1883

Albert Palmer was wholly a self-made man. He was the son of a small farmer of Candia, N.H., where he was born, January 17, 1831, and where in the intervals of work he obtained what elementary education he could. When he was but fourteen years old, he taught school to get the means with which to go to Phillips Academy, Exeter, and when he was twenty-three entered Dartmouth, where he graduated second in his class. He taught school in West Cambridge and in the Boston Latin School. He organized the Jamaica Pond Ice Company, which was a great financial success, and he served for many years as its treasurer, and later as president. Becoming interested in politics, he was elected in 1872 to the House of Representatives, serving until 1874, inclusive, acting as the chairman of the Joint Committee on Railroads. He was in the State Senate from 1875 to 1880, and for a time was chairman of the Committee on Federal Relations. He left the Republican party in 1879, and became a Democrat and a follower of General Butler. He was defeated for mayor in 1882 by Dr. Samuel A. Green, but was elected the following year. Through his efforts Franklin Park was laid out. He died May 21, 1887.

AUGUSTUS PEARL MARTIN

Twenty-sixth Mayor, 1884

General Martin was born November 23, 1835, in Piscataqua, Me., and was brought to Boston early in life. He attended the public and private schools, and then engaged in the leather trade. He enlisted in the army at the outbreak of the Civil War, and his bravery in leading a battery to the top of "Little Round Top" helped greatly in achieving the Union victory. He was chief marshal at the dedication of the Army and Navy Monument and at the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Boston. After much urging he became, in 1883, the Citizens and Republican candidate for mayor, and gave the city "a plain, practical, resolute, and honest government." He was made chairman of the Board of Police under Greenhalge, to rid the city of crime and to enforce the laws. His enemies brought charges against him, but the council did not sustain them. At the time of his death, on March 13, 1902, he was water commissioner.

Digitized by Google

Augustus P. Martin

Hugh O'Brien

Digitized by Google

HUGH O'BRIEN

Twenty-seventh Mayor, 1885–86–87–88

Hugh O'Brien was born in Ireland, July 13, 1827, and came to this country while a child. He went to the public schools, but left at twelve to earn his living in newspaper work and publishing, and later entered politics, where he served almost continuously from 1875 to 1883 on the Board of Aldermen. He was a strong advocate of public parks, and a powerful argument of his caused the city to acquire the Franklin Park lands in West Roxbury, Back Bay lands, and the large tract at City Point. Always a champion of the laboring classes, he was most potent in passing ordinances regulating the pay of men working for city contractors. He endeavored to limit the municipal expenditures, so that the amount to be raised by taxes would be greatly decreased. During his four terms as mayor he showed great decision in making the necessary changes in offices and in controlling the expenses made by changes in business methods. After retiring from the mayoralty, he was appointed by Mayor Matthews to the Board of Survey for plotting streets. He died August 1, 1895.

THOMAS NORTON HART

Twenty-eighth Mayor, 1889–90, 1900–01

Thomas Norton Hart was born in Reading, January 20, 1829, and after a country school education came to Boston, a penniless boy, to seek his fortune. He acquired a competency in mercantile business, and became president of the Mount Vernon National Bank. In 1879 to 1881 he was a member of the Common Council, and in 1882, 1885, and 1886 a member of the Board of Aldermen, and was four times defeated for mayor and three times elected. As alderman, he opposed the granting of a franchise to the Bay State Gas Company "to enter the streets of Boston for the sole purpose of making money." While mayor, he attended strictly to his duty, seeing that the streets were swept, the city finances were put into systematic shape. He opposed the extinction of the City Council in 1897, and also acts of the legislature which allowed the city to incur further debts, believing, however, that money should be spent for necessary work, such as paving streets, sewers, water department needs, and schools. Thinking that business should come before sentiment and ornament, he fought excessive expenditures for parks. He advocated building a subway, but not with city funds. He is at the time of writing still living.

NATHAN MATTHEWS, Jr.

Twenty-ninth Mayor, 1891–92–93–94

Nathan Matthews, Jr., was a native of Boston, and was born March 28, 1854, and is still living. He was educated at Harvard, in Germany, and received from the Harvard Law School a LL.D. He has been a lecturer on municipal government at Harvard. Entering politics early in life as a Democrat, he was elected mayor four times, receiving at his second election the largest majority given any mayor up to that

Digitized by Google

Thomas N. Hart

Nathan Matthews, Jr.

Digitized by Google

time and with one exception the largest ever given. He opposed Mayor Hart's suggestion that the tax and debt limits be increased, and during his terms of office stood for economy and efficiency in the management of public affairs. He reduced the number of executive departments, brought the street departments into closer relations, thereby effecting greater economy, systematized street cleaning, brought the ferries under one head, and wire inspectors under the Fire Department. Many schoolhouses were erected, and the Tremont Street subway built. His whole course as mayor was opposed to laxity or corruption in city management. He was first chairman of the Boston Finance Commission in 1907–09.

EDWIN UPTON CURTIS

Thirtieth Mayor, 1895

Edwin Upton Curtis was born March 26, 1861, in Roxbury. His father, an ex-alderman of Boston, was one of the picturesque characters of the city, always wearing a blue coat with brass buttons. Mr. Curtis graduated at Bowdoin College, and was admitted to the bar. Early entering politics, he held many offices, serving as city clerk of Boston, secretary of the Republican City Committee, mayor of Boston, Assistant United States Treasurer at Boston, Collector of Customs for the Port of Boston, and also as member of the Metropolitan Park Commission.

In his inaugural he advocated the importance of special financial provision for educational buildings and facilities, the desirability of a Board of Election Commissioners, the policy of having special examinations of the city's financial system and resources, and making provision for public parks and other needs. All election machinery was placed in the control of a Board of Election Commissioners, composed of four men, two from each great political party. His whole administration was characterized by a regulation of expense. He is still living.

JOSIAH QUINCY

Thirty-first Mayor, 1896–97–98–99

Josiah Quincy, the last of Boston's famous Quincys, was born October 15, 1859, at Quincy, the son of Josiah Phillips Quincy and Helen F. Quincy, and is living. Graduating at Harvard in 1880, he was admitted to the bar in 1884, and became a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1887, serving 1888, 1890, and 1891. He was chairman of the Democratic State Committee in 1891–92 and again in 1906. In 1893 he was First Assistant Secretary of State for six months under Grover Cleveland. Quincy, who had been an effective speaker in the state campaign of 1895, was elected mayor in that year and served the first two years' term, the election to the office having been annual. In 1897 he was re-elected, and served until January, 1900. He appointed an advisory board of leading business men to act with him in matters of business, taxes, and finance affecting the municipality. His administration was marked by the erection of the South Union Station, uniting

Digitized by Google

Edwin U. Curtis

Josiah Quincy

Digitized by Google

1/2

ous railroads entering the city from the South
r interested in the system of public baths, gym-
which have grown to large dimensions in Boston,
measures for the benefit of the masses of the

ıe Union Club, the Society of Colonial Wars,
Clubs of Boston and New York, and various
: has been since 1906 a member of the Boston
on.

CK ANDREW COLLINS

y-second Mayor, 1902–03–04–05

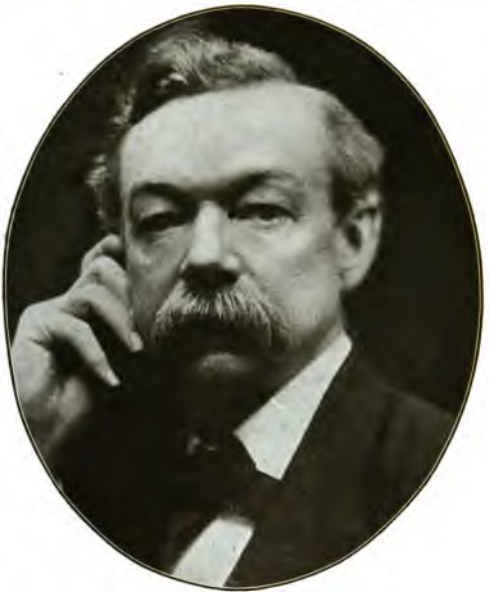
ıne of Boston's greatest Irishmen, and was re-
cking" element as much as by his own race. He
ıa, Ireland, March 12, 1844, where his father was
was often called to settle disputes among his
lent supporter of Irish liberty and rights, so that
l was imbued with devotion to Irish freedom.
ıme to America, and finally settled in Chelsea,
school and passed some unhappy years, as the
Know-Nothing ... ıt at this time, 1848, was at its height. He was persecuted as Irish and a Catholic by his schoolmates. During one of the Know-nothing riots Collins's arm was broken. After leaving school, he worked in a fish market. Through the influence of Robert Morris, the first colored lawyer, who took a great interest in the boy, Collins was filled with a desire for an education. His mother went to Ohio in 1857, and Collins tried to earn a living in many ways, working as a miner, a carter, and an upholsterer. He wished to become a machinist, but was not physically strong enough. He finally returned to South Boston, where he worked at his trade, soon becoming the highest-paid journeyman, and working in Boston, to which he walked every day, going back in the evening for his supper. After supper he returned to Boston to spend the evening studying in the Public Library, and at the close of his evenings reading Greek, Roman, French, and English history, fiction, and poetry. Having a remarkable memory, he stored his mind with facts, which he was afterwards able to use to great advantage in his public career.

He finally saved money enough to study law, first with James Keith, a Democrat and a fine lawyer of the old school, and later took a degree at Harvard Law School. When he opened his office, the first case was brought to him by Leopold Morse, who ever took pleasure in bringing opportunity to others. In 1867, when he was but twenty-three, he captivated an audience at a political meeting he chanced to attend, and was made a delegate to the party convention.

His support of the Fenian movement brought upon him the disapproval of the Catholic clergy, who sharply criticised him.

He was a member of the legislature in 1868 and 1869, and of the State Senate in 1870 and 1871, where he was then the youngest man who had ever become a member, and was chairman of the Harbor and Land

Digitized by Google



Patrick A. Collins

Daniel A. Whelton

Digitized by Google

Commission. In 1883–85 he was in Congress, where he served on the Judiciary Committee and worked for uniform bankruptcy laws and international copyright. Under Governor Gaston he was judge advocate, and later was president of the Irish Land League and received the freedom of Dublin and Cork. His campaign work for Cleveland swung the Irish vote to the latter, and he was appointed consul-general to London. He felt that Boston had gone too far in the direction of "benevolent socialism," and made new appointments to the heads of most city departments. He impressed upon the heads he appointed that he would hold them, and no one else, responsible for any dishonesty or laxity in the management of their department. He favored home rule in city affairs; opposed enlargement of taxes and drafts for maintenance and improvements of parks and sewers; held out firmly against raising the salaries of city employees and pensions for their widows. He stood against injuries to the historic interest of the city, such as encroachments on the Common, tearing down the Old South Meeting-house, changing Copp's Hill or the Granary Burying-ground. Governor Crane accepted his opinion on all matters relating to Boston that came before him, vetoing all measures which the mayor deemed improper. Collins approved the freeing of Cuba, but disapproved the acquisition of Porto Rico and the Philippines. He died September 14, 1905, while in office. Of him Grover Cleveland said, "In public life he was strictly honest and sincerely devoted to the responsibilities which office-holding involves."

DANIEL A. WHELTON

Thirty-third Mayor, from September 15, 1905, until the end of the year

Daniel A. Whelton became acting mayor and then mayor of Boston, filling out the unexpired term of General Collins, from September 15, 1905, to the end of the year. He was born January 1, 1872, in the West End, and was educated at St. Mary's School, from which he graduated in 1886. After attending the Evening High School for a few months, he entered the employ of Henry A. Young & Co., book publishers, and then became a salesman for De Wolfe, Fiske & Co.

In 1895 he was United States Revenue Gauger, and held the office until 1903. He was at one time a warden in caucus; also an election officer. He became interested in politics, and was a member of the Common Council in 1894, and again in 1895, when he served on the Finance Committee. He was chairman of the Board of Aldermen in 1905. He is now one of the deputy sheriffs of Boston.

JOHN FRANCIS FITZGERALD

Thirty-fourth Mayor, 1906–07, 1910–11–12–13

John Francis Fitzgerald was the mayor of Boston when this brochure was on the press. He enjoys the distinction of probably being the most energetic incumbent that has yet held the office of mayor. Since he has been mayor, he has left no stone unturned to make Boston one of the great seaports of the coast, as well as a greater manufacturing and in-

Digitized by Google

John F. Fitzgerald

George A. Hibbard

Digitized by Google

dustrial centre. In and out of New England he has advocated the bringing of new steamship lines to Boston, the improvement of harbor facilities, the building of better wharves, and the creation of many lines of civic work that would make Boston bigger and busier.

He has provided the means for every citizen to voice the needs of his particular section by establishing a series of district town meetings in different sections of the city, which were not represented in the City Council by the aldermen-at-large. To accomplish this, the mayor and City Council hold a meeting at various periods of the year in those sections, at which any citizen has an opportunity to present his grievance or request. These meetings have been popular, and frequently a unanimous vote of thanks has been given by those who have been concerned in the meeting. Mayor Fitzgerald has enthusiastically advocated opening commercial negotiations with South America, urging that the schools should teach Spanish, so that the younger generation would be able to further our commercial relations with the Southern Republics.

Mayor Fitzgerald has also been active in humanitarian affairs, providing free rides on the ferry for the poor on hot nights and having the Fire Department flush the streets at intervals during intensely hot weather. The efficiency of the Board of Health has also been increased by adding a corps of ten nurses under a medical inspector for the care of diseases dangerous to the public health. To him also thanks are due for awakening a civic interest in the festival of Christmas, observing it officially by a celebration on the Boston Common, which has been enthusiastically attended by many.

In short, to use the mayor's own words, "I have not been content merely to fulfil the letter of the duties of the mayor's office, but I have endeavored by every means to make the city better and more prosperous."

He was born February 11, 1863, in the North End, where he is said to have a speaking acquaintance with every man, woman, and child, and was educated at the Eliot Grammar School, the Boston Latin School, and had one year at the Harvard Medical School. For a brief period he was employed in the Custom House, but soon left to give his attention to business and politics. He went into the real estate and insurance business, and was not long engaged when he was looked upon as one of the most successful young men in that line in the whole city. He spent considerable time and much thought in becoming acquainted with and gaining the good-will of every one in his ward who had a vote. Taking a keen interest in the personal affairs of all in his district, not only did he keep a card index of men needing work and employ a secretary to look after them, but he was wont to go out personally and look for work for the unemployed in his district. So that his practical efforts for the poor of his district, as well as his social qualities, have created a body of devoted and grateful admirers and followers upon whose support he can always count.

He served as a member of the Boston Common Council in 1892, and the Massachusetts Senate 1893–94, the 54th, 55th, 56th Congresses from 1895–1901, and for six years has been mayor of his city, having been first elected in 1905. He obtained his first election by defeating the organization forces in twenty-one out of the twenty-five wards of the city.

Digitized by Google

During his administration the High School of Commerce has been opened, and the School of Practical Arts for Girls, and the Consumptives' Hospital established. He inaugurated the Saturday half-holiday for city employees, has built many playgrounds, the Charlestown Armory, new bath-houses, increased the pay of laborers, wood-blocked Washington Street, and started the annex to the City Hall. During his term the subway was opened to Cambridge, and underground rapid transit developed in other ways. New streets and sewers have been added, the water front enlarged, Arlington Street widened, the Zoo and Aquarium opened at Franklin Park, and the soil of Boston Common renewed. Mayor Fitzgerald is married, and has a large family. He is a fluent public speaker, and has a genial manner and much magnetism.

His life is an illustration of the heights to which one can rise who has indomitable pluck.

GEORGE ALBEE HIBBARD

Thirty-fifth Mayor, 1908–09

George Albee Hibbard was born October 27, 1864, in Boston, and was educated in the public schools. His father was a strong anti-slavery man. At twenty Hibbard was a clerk in Quincy Market in the stall of his father, a wholesale produce dealer. Later he went into the insurance business, then became a member of a firm of commercial paper dealers, and finally treasurer of a tailoring company. As a business man, he was not a success. He entered politics, served on ward and city Republican committees, managed minor companies, and was elected in 1894 to the state legislature, and missed by one vote being elected State Treasurer to fill out the unexpired term of Henry M. Phillips.

After serving in the lower house of the legislature, he was appointed in 1890 postmaster of Boston, making such an efficient and honest public servant that in 1908 he defeated John F. Fitzgerald for mayor in a closely fought campaign. He gave the city so efficient a business administration that he effected savings in one year of a million dollars. He removed all "students" and politicians who were not needed from the city pay-roll, and paid no attention to the slates of appointments made by the professional politicians. He naturally made many enemies, and under the provision of the new charter the Reformers chose James J. Storrow instead of Hibbard as the Reform candidate. Hibbard with no money and against the advice of many of his best friends ran independently, but was badly beaten. Mayor-elect Fitzgerald named him for city collector, but the Civil Service Commission rejected his name, and Hibbard soon after died, May 29, 1910, a disappointed man, feeling that his efforts to give his city an honest administration had not been appreciated by the very ones who desired economy and efficiency in public affairs. "In spite of mistakes he ended all known practices of a vicious nature embraced within the meaning of the term graft", said John A. Sullivan, chairman of the Finance Commission.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

SEP 9 '71
GIFT

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

DX 000 196 279

PLEASE RETURN TO
ALDERMAN LIBRARY

DUE	DUE
1-17-90	

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google